Nationalisation of Man Power Export Activities

524. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India continues to be one of the major exporter of man-power to the Gulf and other developed countries;

(b) if so, the number of Indian labour force went abroad during the years 1984 and 1985, separately;

(c) whether any proposal is under Government's consideration to nationalise the man-power export activities with a view to protect our labour force from illegal extraction of money and other clandestine activities of the private man-power export agencies; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) During 1984, approximately 2.06 lakhs persons obtained emigration clearances and during 1985, approximately 1.63 lakh persons obtained emigration clearances.

(c) and (d) No Sir. The Central Government has however advised all State Governments to consider setting up State Manpower Corporations for deploying Indian workers for overseas employment. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territory of Delhi, have already set up State-owned Corporations. Further, whenever cases of exploitation are brought to the notice of the Government, necessary action is taken under the provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983 and the Rules framed thereunder. Whenever complaints regarding cheating are received in the Ministry, the same are referred to the police authorities for necessary investigation and action at their end.

Railway lines in Tribal areas of Bihar

525. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tribal areas of Bihar continue to be ignored by Government in the matter of providing new lines for improving upon the existing Railway facilities;

(b) whether the demand for direct rail link between Hazaribagh-Giridih and for provision of faster rail links between Begusarai-Patna have been considered by Government; and

(c) if so, what are its respective status of implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Survey for a new B. G. line from Ranchi to Giridih via Hazaribagh was conducted in 1986. The project was not found financially viable. Due to acute constraint of resources, it is difficult to consider this project at present. There is no proposal to introduce any new service on Begusarai-Patna section at present.

Check on the prices of essential commodities

526. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of essential commodities

like sugar, edible oils have been rising steadily; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) what were the comparative index of the prices of essential commodities during October, 1989, November, 1989 and January, 1990 with the corresponding months of the previous year;

(c) whether there is a shortage of essential commodities in the country; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to bring down the prices?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA) : (a) and (b) There has been a mixed trend in the behaviour of the prices of the essential commodities. The wholesale price indices of rice, wheat, pulses like grams, *arhar*, *moong*, *masoor*, vegetables like potatoes and onions; sugar, *gur*, milk and fish have declined during three months ending January, 1990 while there has been some increase in the prices of *Bajra*, mutton, salt, mustard oil, coconut oil controlled cloth and laundry soap. However, the prices of soft coke and kerosene remained steady. The uptrend in the prices may be attributed to the shortfall in production and the lean season for some of the items during this part of the year. A statement showing wholesale price indices of selected esential commodities in October, 1989, November, 1989 and January, 1990 and in the corresponding months in the previous year is given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLIII, Annexure No. 20]

(c) and (d) There has been by and large no shortage of foodgrains and most of the other essential commodities during the last three months.

The Government has, however, been reviewing the prices and availability situation of essential commodities at the highest level. Appropriate measures both short-term and long-term are being taken. These include measures to increase production of essential commodities which are in short supply, strengthening the Public Distribution System and monitoring of prices and availability of essential commodities; strict enforcement of the provisions of the Essential Commodities and other regulatory measures; regulation of export of essential commodities and if necessary, augmenting domestic supplies through imports to check abnormal rise in the prices of essential commodities due to demand and supply gap.

Use of pesticides

527. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what were the State-wise, year-wise and pesticide-wise quantities sprayed in the country during the year 1987-88 and 1988-89;

(b) whether any health hazards arising from these spraying has been monitored and if so the details thereof; and

(c) whether the sprayers, farmers, and others including flora and fauna were found affected during these operations?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Due to the multiplicity or formulations of 123 registered pesticides, the precise quantum of specific pesticides sprayed on crops is not available. However, the State-wise consumption of pesticides during 1987-88